

## **COWORKERS AND GETTING ALONG - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

The bible talks a lot about how we are to treat our enemies. Do you feel like you have enemies in the workplace? If not now, in the past?

I looked up synonyms for the word “enemies” and the results included: “adversary”, “competed against”, “antagonist”, “attacker”, “competitor”, “detractor”, “invader”, “defamer”, “other side”. Would you describe any of your coworkers/customers/patrons with these terms?

The idea of loving your coworkers is kind of weird and honestly a bit challenging when trying to behave appropriately and respect work boundaries. In your opinion, what does loving your coworkers look like in general?

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 “Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

I think loving your enemies is one of the most difficult commands that God gives us. If loving the people we actually like at work is already kind of strange, how can we possibly love our work enemies or anyone else that falls into that “other” category?

John 14:16 (And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.) uses the concept of a “comforter” or “advocate” to describe the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit comfort or advocate for you? How do you think this idea translates to the workplace?

It’s not too unreasonable to think of malicious gossip as the opposite of comfort. Would you say that people’s names are safe in your mouth? Why or why not?

Since we’re in Boise, we have all probably heard about the “Boise Nice”, that as a community, we generally are nice people. What about when we have to have not so nice conversations?

As Christians, how are we supposed to confront others in the workplace?

In preparing for this topic, I came across a definition that described resentment as “the cheapest and least legitimate form of anger”. Thesaurus.com also defined it as “hate”. I tend to think of it as a sort of simmering animosity. Have you had a long standing grudge against someone at your work? How have you dealt with it? How did you try to resolve or get over your resentment?

1 Corinthians 13:4 tells us that “love is not jealous”. However, I am honestly jealous of a lot of my coworkers, a lot of the time. AND that’s on top of being very blessed in my current job. Do others feel like that?

What makes you jealous in the workplace?

Do you ever feel jealous because things aren’t equal? When things aren’t equal between two coworkers, is that righteous anger or is it jealousy?

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